(b) whether the mica reserves are declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set-up mica-based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) According to the tentative estimates of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the mica reserves in Bihar as on 1.4.90 are given as under:-

(Unit: Kg.)

DISTRICT	RECOVERABLE RESERVES
Giridih	463,480
Hazaribagh	929,490
Nawada	12,161,070
Bihar (total)	13,554,040

(b) and (c). The production of mica from the identified reserves is a continuous process and as such the resources are declining.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Production of IISCO

1946. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cut down the production at the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL do not propose to cut down the production at IISCO.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Inconvenience to Passengers due to Dislocation or Rail Traffic

1947. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to dislocation of Rail traffic between Gudur/Nellore and Madras, passengers travelling to north from Vijayawada section have been subjected to lot of inconvenience;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce superfast trains between Vijayawada-New Delhi, Vijayawada-Lucknow etc; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, train services to the North including Delhi have since been restored.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Direct Railway Link to Chandigarh with Major Cities of Punjab

1948. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, has not been linked by rail even with the major cities of Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide railway link with Chandigarh from all major cities of Punjab;

(d) if so, the detials thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Chandigarh is linked by rail to all major cities in Punjab via Ambala Cantt.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Construction of a new line between Rajpura and Chandigarh via Sambhu-Lalru has been taken up which will provide a more direct connection between Chandigarh and other major cities of Punjab. This link will reduce distance to Chandigarh by 23 Km. from all Stations in Punjab and also save engine reversal time of 20 minutes. The work is targetted for completion in December 1998.

(e) Does not arise.

Jammu Keshwat Srinagar Air Services

1949. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for Jammu-Keshwat-Srinagar and Srinagar-Rajouri-Jammu air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also helicopter service for Gurez (Baramulla) and Tandgader in (Kupwara); and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Pawan Hans Ltd., at present, has no proposal to introduce helicopter services for Gurez (Baramulla) and Tandgader in (Kupwara) since the fare would be very high making them commercially unviable.

Tourism Potentiality in West Bengal

1950. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make a comprehensive plan of action to develop Darjeeling, Sunderbans, Shankarpur, Kalimpong and different parts of West Bengal keeping in view to generate employment scope; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to prepare comprehensive plan of action for development of Tourism in the States, however, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific project proposals to the State Governments based on their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

The Government of West Bengal has prepared a project Report for the Development of Tourism in Sunderbans at an estimated cost of Rs. 600 lakhs and development of Tourism facilities at Alipurduar & adjoining areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 552.25 lakhs.

Coverage of AIR Network in States

1951. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population covered by AIR stations State/UT-wise;

(b) whether a number of representations have been received by the Government to expand AIR Network in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to provide cent percent coverage to all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details of percentage of population covered by AIR Stations in various States and Union Territories are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c). Since 01.04.94, a total of 25 representations for expansion/development of AIR network in the country have been received from different states as per details at enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e). Barring a few isolated pockets, radio coverage on Medium Wave/FM Transmitters is available throughout the country. In addition, radio coverage across the entire country is also available on Short Wave Band. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to reach hitherto uncovered areas subject to availability of necessary infrastructure facilities and resources.

STATEMENT- I

All India Radio

State-wise Coverage During Day-time

		Population % covered
1	2	3
	I. STATES	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	99
3.	Assam	86
4.	Bihar	*99
5.	Goa	*99
6.	Gujarat	*99
7.	Haryana	*99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	88
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	97
10	Karanataka	96
11.	Kerala	96.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	97
13.	Maharashtra	99
14.	Manipur	*99
15.	Meghalaya	96
16.	Mizoram	95
17.	Nagaland	97
18.	Orissa	98
19.	Punjab	*99
20.	Rajasthan	98.5
21.	Sikkim	95
22.	Tamil Nadu	99
23.	Tripura	*99
24.	Uttar Pradesh	97.5
25.	West Bengal	*99